08. Rajiv Gandhi Inst. of Engg. & Tech. Lucknow.
09. MGM's College of Engg. & Tech. Noida.
10. Shiv Narayan Arvind Pandey Engg. College, Allahabad.
11. Kamlesh Institute of Technology, Varanasi.
12. Aligarh College of Engg. & Tech. Aligarh.
13. Gramaudyagik Shikshan Mandal, Meerut.
14. Impact, Jhansi, Jhansi.
15. Swami Jankin Saran Institute of Tech. Beabareli.
16. IEC College of Engg. & Tech., Greater Noida.
17. Ambedkar Academy of Engg. & Tech., Lucknow.
18. Kanpur Institute of Technology, Kanpur.
19. Babu Banarsi Das Inst. of Tech., Ghaziabad.
20. Babu Banarasi Das Inst. of Engg. & Tech. Lucknow.
21. SRM Engineering College, Meerut.
22. Northern Indian Engineering College, Lucknow.
23. Agra College Faculty of Engg. & Tech., Agra.
24. International Inst. of Tech. & Allied Sc. Noida.
25. College of Engg. & Rural Technology, Meerut.
26. Rajarshi Tandon Col. of Engg. & Tech., Allahabad.
27. Venkatesh College of Engg. Sc. & Tech., Meerut.
28. College of Enginereing, Roorkee, Hardwar.
29. Prasad Institute of Technology, Jaunpur.

Projects taken up by Nehru Yuva Kendras

712. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various projects and works taken up and completed by Nehru Yuva Kendras in the country during the last three years; Statewise and year-wise;

(b) the funds sanctioned for each project and the amount spent by each kendra; and

(c) the details of proposals mooted by the Nehru Yuva Kendras in 1998-99?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) During the last 3 years, NYKS has taken up and completed various projects and works under three broad categories, viz., Regular Programmes, Schemes of Department of Youth Affairs and Sports and Special Programmes & Projects of other agencies. Details are given in the Annexures. [*See* Appendix 185 Annexure No. 18]

(b) The details of funds sanctioned and amount spent under various projects of Nehru Yuva Kendras in different States are at Annexure IV. [*See* Appendix 188 Annexure No. 19]

(c) The details are given at Annexure V. [*See* Appendix 185, Annexure No. 19]

Amendment to the School Curriculum

713. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state?

(a) the decisions of the recent State Education Ministers Conference held on 22-23rd October, 1998;

(b) whether Government are contemplating to amend the existing school curriculum and syllabus; and

(c) if so, the reasosn therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) The important decisions taken in the Conference of Education Ministers are at statement:

Statement

There was a general consensus that universal elementary education to be preceded by, as an essential step, universal primary education would have to be taken up on a mission mode. Universal access, universal retention together with qualitative inputs would be the key components here. Implementation would be done with full collaboration between the Central and State Governments with community involvement. A National Committee to be chaired by the Minister (HRD) and consisting of ministers of the States of Assam, Haryana, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal would develop the structure and outlines of this mission.

It was resolved that the financing of education was not commensurate with the needs of this sector and that more funds would need to be provided both from public and private sources. The funding of education would have to be done both by the Central and State Governements as a collaborative national effort. This would need to cover all sectors of education elementary, secondary and higher.

It was agreed that in keeping with the requirements of science and technology and the information era, information technology would have to come in a comprehensive way in the eudcational system, both in terms of training manpower and supply of appropriate hardware and software. This would be part of the IT Task Force Agenda for Education.

It was unanimously resolved that the educational system should be more responsive to social needs. Quality improvement in higher education is another area which would need urgent attention of both the Central Governmnet and the State Governments. Simultaneously, there was need for a greater thrust on vocational education and vocationalisation.

Given the greater outreach of the open schooling and distance education system, its long-term cost effectiveness, it was resolved that these would be further strengthened in tandem with the formal schooling set up. The role of open schooling and distance eudcation in reaching those socially disadvantaged was stressed upon.

The importance of providing free eduction for girls upto the graduation level as already included in the National Agenda for governance was welcomed. It was stated in this connection that some funds for this activity had already been provided for in the Central Budget. The scope and extent of what constituted "Free Education" would need to be however further discussed and deliberated upon. This would be further deliberated by the State Education Secretaries with the Union Education Secretary, in concurrence with the respective State Governments.

It was resolved that the thrust of the educational policy should be directed towards those who are marginalised in general and in particular to those who belonged to SC/ST and minorities.

It was recognised that there was a need to build up environment-awareness through curricular and co-curricular activities at all levels of education.

It was also noted that literacy levels in the country would need to be stepped up significantly in order to create the base for all educational efforts. The National Literacy Mission and the State Literacy Missions would need to work with vigour and zeal to achieve this objective.

Irregular Functioning of Universities

714. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the University Grants Commission (UGC) the apex authority for the country's 230 odd universities has no real control over them;

(b) whether it is also a fact that many of the universities are not following their academic calendar and some of them have not been able to conduct examinations for 1997-98; and

(c) if so, the details and reasons therefor and what action is proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?